

Maintenance expenditure on electric/diesel engines

2903. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that against the target of 1000 route km. of electrification of rail tracks every year, as was planned since late 80's, on an average hardly 550 km. have been electrified;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the process of electrification has slowed down since it is costlier than diesel engine; and

(d) if so, the details of comparative study of cost and maintenance of electric vis-a-vis diesel engine?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Due to constraint of resources.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Extension of BG line from Silchar to Jiribam

2904. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of extension of broad gauge line from Silchar to Jiribam (Manipur); and

(b) how long it will take to complete it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) The conversion of Silchar-Jiribam line has been sanctioned as a Material Modification to the Lumding-Silchar gauge conversion project. The survey has been completed. The work would be taken up and progressed as per availability of resources. No target date has yet been fixed for completion of this work.